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## DoT to Enforce Nine-SIM Cap Using Photograph-Based Verification at Point of Issuance

20 August 2026 ·

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# DoT to Enforce Nine-SIM Cap Using Photograph-Based Verification at Point of Issuance

20 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** will place subscriber photographs, accessed via its **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**, at the disposal of telecom service providers to enforce the **nine-SIM-per-person cap** nationally, shifting fraud detection to the point of SIM issuance rather than after-the-fact.*

## How the Cap Works

Every individual may hold a maximum of **nine SIM connections** nationally, reduced to **six** in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, and the Northeastern states, reflecting heightened security sensitivity in border and insurgency-affected regions. Telecom operators must fully transition to the new photograph-based, point-of-issuance verification process by **November 30, 2026**.

## Why This Matters

SIM-swap fraud, bulk SIM procurement for scam call centres, and identity-linked telecom fraud have been persistent enforcement challenges. By enabling real-time photograph cross-verification at the retail point of sale, DoT aims to prevent fraudulent issuance before it happens, rather than detecting and cancelling fraudulently issued SIMs after the fact.

## UPSC Relevance

This connects GS3 cybersecurity and telecom-fraud prevention with the **Telecommunications Act, 2023** framework and raises a data-privacy dimension under the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**. A useful Mains angle weighs national-security and fraud-prevention imperatives against biometric/photograph-data-use privacy safeguards.

 **FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA****DOT NINE-SIM CAP ENFORCEMENT:**

National cap: 9 SIMs per person; reduced cap: 6 in J&K, Assam, Northeastern states

Enforcement platform: Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), DoT

Verification method: photograph cross-check at point of SIM issuance

Full operator transition deadline: November 30, 2026

**OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:**

Legal basis for telecom subscriber verification: Telecommunications Act, 2023

*Sources: Department of Telecommunications, PIB*

Source: DoT to Enforce Nine-SIM Cap Using Photograph-Based Verification at Point of Issuance — Ujjyari.com |  
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